

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 10, 2012

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

2nd Regular Session of the 50th Legislature

During this week, 662 floor actions were filed; 52 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link)

Friday, February 17th marks the last day Senate bills are heard in the Senate and House bills are heard in the House.

Senate calendar:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/senate/senatedeadlines.pdf>

House calendar: <http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/house/housedeadlines.pdf>

Legislation:

Legislative action on a few of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging is outlined here with summaries provided by *Arizona Capitol Reports LOLA* and found on the **FULL LIST**.

S1177: Strike everything amendment to S.B.1177, relating to DES contractors, licenses, volunteers; fingerprinting; on 2/9 from Senate Public Safety & Human Services with amendment.

Fact sheet provided at Arizona State Legislature website:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/s.1177pshs_strikermemo_revised.doc.htm&Session_ID=107

S1224: Health Insurance; Eye Care Services, 2/8 from Senate Banking & Insurance with do pass.

H2674: CENTRAL STATE REPOSITORY; NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION; The list of entities that may exchange criminal justice information through the central state repository is expanded to include nonprofit organizations that interact with children or vulnerable adults for the purpose of evaluating the fitness of current and prospective employees, contractors and volunteers. On 2/8 from House Military Affairs & Public Safety Committee with amendment.

H2677: Vehicle Insurance; Proof Shown Electronically; on 2/9 from House Transportation Committee with do pass.

H2679: Autonomous Vehicles; ADOT Rules; 2/9 House Transportation FAILED 2-4.

H2807: REDISTRICTING COMMISSION; OPEN MEETING LAW; For the purposes of open meeting laws, the definition of "public body" includes all commissions and public entities established by the state Constitution or by ballot initiative, including the Independent Redistricting Commission. Open meeting law applies except and only to the extent that specific constitutional provisions supersede the statute. On 2/8, referred to House Judiciary Committee.

Hearings next week:

Some of the hearings scheduled next week on legislation tracked on the Council's **FULL LIST** are listed below.

S1177: Strike everything amendment to S.B.1177, relating to DES contractors, licenses, volunteers; fingerprinting, 2/13 Senate Rules, 1:00 pm in the Senate Caucus Room.

S1189: Health Professionals; State Reg; Exception, Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee, 2/15 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1.

S1224: Health Insurance; Eye Care Services, 2/13, 1:00 pm in the Senate Caucus Room.

Be sure to check all the summaries and listing of hearings and committee meetings found at the **FULL LIST** link below.

At the end of day 33 of the legislative session, 1,372 bills posted; 138 memorials or resolutions posted; 5 passed. Several of the bills may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It **does** mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24822&listid=45455&print=true>

Note: The FULL LIST website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and **is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

This list will continue to be edited and/or expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills. We will add new bills to the list on a regular basis until all bills have been posted. Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

At this time, both the House and the Senate are adjourned until 1:30 pm on Monday, February 13, 2012.

Other News

On Monday, the Governor filed an opening brief with the U.S. Supreme Court regarding SB 1070. A link to the press release and the brief are provided here:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_020612_1070Filing.pdf

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_020612_1070FilingOpeningBrief.pdf

Today, the Attorney General announced the national mortgage settlement includes \$1.6 billion for Arizona. The press release is posted at:

http://www.azag.gov/press_releases/feb/2012/120209%20ARIZONA%20MORAGAGE%20SETTLEMENT.html.

The Arizona Attorney General's Office has established a dedicated e-mail address, website link, and phone line to respond to questions regarding the settlement:

Email: mortgagefraud@azag.gov

Toll-free outside the Phoenix area: 855-256-2834

Within the Phoenix area: 602-542-1797

www.azag.gov/consumer/foreclosure/settlement.html

National Mortgage Settlement Website (established by state and federal agencies participating in this settlement):

<http://www.nationalmortgagesettlement.com/>

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or you may **contact the legislator from your area**.

You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website**

<http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* **or** by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

If you would like to learn more about how a bill becomes law, see these links at the Arizona State Legislature's website: <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> and <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf>.

If you want to know who serves on the House and Senate Standing Committees, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp> and click on the committee name.

Happy Birthday Arizona!

On Tuesday, February 14th, Arizona celebrates 100 years of statehood. Read about planned events including free activities at the capitol complex this Saturday and Sunday at:

<http://www.az100years.org/arizona-best-fest-series/> and

<http://www.az100years.org/>.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

S.2037

Older Americans Act Amendments of 2012

Introduced by Senator Bernard Sanders (VT) on 1/26/2012.

Older Americans Act Amendments of 2012 - Revises the Older Americans Act of 1965 with respect to functions and duties of the Administration on Aging of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), particularly with respect to those with the greatest social need caused by specified noneconomic factors.

Reauthorizes the Act through FY2017.

Requires the Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs to recommend to the Assistant Secretary for Aging resources (including hardware and software) needed by state Long-Term Care Ombudsmen (LTCOs) to collect and report program data through the National Ombudsman Reporting System.

Directs the Assistant Secretary to award livable communities grants to eligible entities for the federal share of the cost of assisting communities in preparing for the aging of the population through specified activities.

Grants states the option to use certain grant funds to provide disease prevention and health promotion services directly, including clinical preventive services.

Directs the Assistant Secretary to award grants: (1) to a national organization to establish a National Resource Center on Livable Communities for All Ages; and (2) to carry out projects to support and promote modern multipurpose senior center models which yield multiservice, multigenerational centers for older individuals, their families, and others to gain needed skills, resources, and connections for continuum of care and quality of life.

Requires each grantee under the Older American community service employment program to place at least 50% of its project participants in positions with organizations that assist older adults or with duties that positively impact their lives.

Revises the prohibition against contracting by state LTCO programs with public agencies or nonprofit private organizations to carry out LTCO programs in any case in which there is an organizational conflict of interest unless such conflict has been identified, disclosed, and remedied by certain actions.

Requires a state agency to provide the services of a state legal services developer, who shall promote the development and operation of an integrated legal assistance delivery system.

On 1/26/2012, referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R.3827

To repeal the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research program and comparative effectiveness research funding.

H.R.3827 was introduced on 1/25/2012 by Representative Brett Guthrie (KY-2).

Text of legislation:

Repealing Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

(a) Social Security Act- Part D of title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320e et seq.), as added by section 6301 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, is repealed.

(b) Public Health Service Act- Section 937 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299b-37), as added by section 6301(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, is repealed.

(c) Internal Revenue Code of 1986-

(1) Section 9511 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by section 6301(e)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, is repealed, and the table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 98 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to such section 9511.

(2) Subchapter B of chapter 34 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by section 6301(e)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, is repealed.

(3) Section 501(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(d) Rescission of Unobligated Funds- Of the funds made available under section 9511 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or section 1181(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320e(b)(3)), the unobligated balance is rescinded.

Rescission of unobligated funds under ARRA for Comparative Effectiveness Research

There are hereby rescinded all unobligated balances remaining available as of the date of the enactment of this Act of funds made available by division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) for purposes of comparative effectiveness research under healthcare research and quality under the heading 'Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality' under title VIII of such division.

Use of Funds to Reduce National Deficit

The total amount rescinded by this Act shall be deposited in the general fund of the Federal Treasury and used for Federal budget deficit reduction.

Budgetary Effects

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled 'Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

On 1/25/2012, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committees on Appropriations, the Budget, and Energy and Commerce.

H.R.3831 **Medicare Hospice Care Access Act of 2012**

Introduced on 1/25/2012 by Representative Lee Terry (NE-2), H.R.3831 amends Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients.

On 1/25/2012, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Related bills: S891.

H.R.3891 **Spending Reductions through Innovations in Therapies Agenda Act of 2012**

Introduced on 2/2/2012 by Representative Edward J. Markey (MA-7) to amend the Public Health Service Act to speed American innovation in research and drug development for the leading causes of death that are the most costly chronic conditions for our Nation, to save American families and the Federal and State governments money, and to help family caregivers.

On 2/2/2012, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Related bills: S.2069

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or

<http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include:
<http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the
Senate.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

Other News:

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services announced new steps to fight Alzheimer's Disease.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120207a.html>

Kaiser Health News summary regarding the Alzheimer's research funding boost:

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2012/February/08/alzheimers-funding.aspx>

The Internal Revenue Department (IRS) offers information on free tax assistance, earned income tax credit, avoiding identity theft, and more at: <http://www.irs.gov/>.

Administration on Aging

HIV: Know the RISKS. Get the FACTS. Older Adults and HIV/AIDS Toolkit

http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/HIV_AIDS/toolkit.aspx

National Center on Senior Transportation

Pre-release of the findings from a study on the intersection between health/wellness and transportation

http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_Health_Transportation_PreRelease

From AARP *New Ways for an Aging Population to Get Around*

<http://www.aarp.org/home-garden/transportation/info-12-2011/ways-for-aging-population-to-get-around.html>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Community Conversation on Healthcare

WHEN: Thursday, February 16, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Marana Health Center, 13395 N. Marana Main Street. Event is free and open to the public.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/FlyerMaranaHealthForum.pdf>

WHAT: Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) for People with Disabilities, Resource Fair

WHEN: Saturday, February 18, 2012, 11 am to 3 pm, Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center, 1660 W. Ruthrauff Road, Tucson, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/ResourceFairFlier.pdf>

WHAT: Trauma Informed Care Summit

WHEN: Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Downtown Phoenix Campus, AE England Building (Civic Space Park), 424 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/TICSummit_2012SaveTheDate.pdf

Coming later this summer

WHAT: 2012 Behavioral Health and Older Adults Conference; Trends, Issues, Solutions

WHEN: Friday, June 15, 2012, Casino Del Sol Conference Center, 5655 W. Valencia Rd., Tucson, AZ

For more information, contact the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona at conference @bhacsa.com. (<http://www.cpsa-rbha.org/>)

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the ***Legislative Updates*** are linked on the Council website at:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging